



U.S. Department of Justice

Ronald C. Machen Jr.
*United States Attorney for the
District of Columbia*

*Judiciary Center
555 Fourth St. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530*

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, May 27, 2011

For Information Contact:

Public Affairs

(202) 252-6933

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District Man Sentenced to 28 Years in Prison for 2005 Slaying, Shot Victim 20 Times - Victim Had Been Arguing With Defendant's Father -

WASHINGTON - Julius Johnson, 24, of Washington, D.C., was sentenced today to 28 years of incarceration for second degree murder and other charges in a slaying that took place in August 2005 in Northwest Washington, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced.

Johnson was convicted by a jury of second degree murder and various firearms offenses in February 2011, following a trial in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. The Honorable William M. Jackson sentenced him today.

According to the government's evidence, Johnson shot and killed James Cousart, 41, for disrespecting his father during an argument on August 25, 2005.

The defendant's father, Bobby Johnson, Sr., and another person were sitting outside, in the 1400 block of First Street NW, in the early morning hours when Cousart approached them. Bobby Johnson, Sr. and Cousart began to argue.

During the argument, Bobby Johnson, Sr., picked up his cell phone and made a call, stating, "I'm going to call my sons, I'm going to call J.J." Shortly thereafter, Julius Johnson pulled up in a car, got out, and shot Cousart 20 times, causing the victim's death.

The investigation of the case went cold until new information was developed that ultimately led to Julius Johnson's arrest in May 2010.

In announcing the sentence, U.S. Attorney Machen praised those who worked on the case from the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), including Detective Jeff Owens, Sgt. Daniel Wagner and his entire squad, and Officer Darryl Young. He additionally praised those who worked on the case from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, including Agents Peter Muldoon and Harry Brady. He also acknowledged the assistance provided by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Deborah Sines and Glenn Kirschner, Paralegal Specialist Alesha

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Matthews Yette, and Leif Hickling and the entire Litigation Technology Unit. Finally, he praised the work of Assistant U.S. Attorney Jocelyn Ballantine, who prosecuted the case.

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